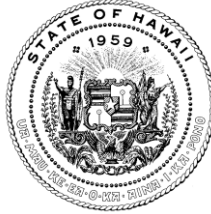


DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on
WATER, LAND, & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

**Wednesday, March 27, 2019
9:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325**

**In consideration of
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 83/HOUSE RESOLUTION 48
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO
CONDUCT A STUDY FOR THE RESTORATION OF MAUNA LAHILAHİ AND ITS
BOTANICAL GARDEN.**

House Concurrent Resolution 83, House Resolution 48 request that the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) conduct a study for the restoration of Mauna Lahilahi and its botanical gardens. **The Department opposes these measures without funding for the requested study.**

Mauna Lahilahi is a prominent geographic landmark on the leeward coast of Oahu located south of Mākaha. A small mountain formation next to the ocean makes up Mauna Lahilahi. It is highlighted in guidebooks and on the world wide web as one of the places to see on O‘ahu, and is frequently visited by hikers and beachgoers. It is home to much local native plant life found directly around the mountain structure or in the nearby botanical garden. Mauna Lahilahi is also of cultural significance to native Hawaiians. It is believed that this mountain was sacred to Kāne, the Hawaiian god of procreation and the father of all living creatures. Numerous old petroglyphs have been carved into the rocks on Mauna Lahilahi by different hands and at different times, ranging from pre-contact to quite recent. The Department recognizes the cultural significance of Mauna Lahilahi, its natural beauty, as well as the importance of its relatively undisturbed natural habitat.

The Department agrees that Mauna Lahilahi should be protected and managed proactively to protect its cultural and natural values. While the significance of Mauna Lahilahi is unquestioned, the Department, with regret, opposes these measures as drafted without associated funding for the requested study. The Department does not have the resources to undertake the planning study or prepare the report called for by these measures. Attempting this planning effort with existing resources would require redirecting funds from other important priorities and the management of lands and resources under the Department’s stewardship.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on these measures.

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS